

ORWELL YACHT CLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 10th MARCH 2025 at 7.30 PM

Those present: John Hazelton (JHn): Jim Howard (JGH): Samantha Mills (SM): Julia Norman (JN): Fred Codling (RC): Phil Naylor (PNr): Jenny Naylor (JNr): Paul Belton (PB): John Ling (JL): Peter Hibberd (PH): Andrew Witherley (AW): Mike Fry (MF): Jill Howard (JHd): Peter Parker (PP) Terry Mills (TM) attended via teams meeting

Trustees: Robert Jones (RJ): Steve Gilson (SG): Mark Wilson (MW)

1. **Apologies for absence:** none
2. **Approval of minutes – Management Committee Meeting held Monday 10th February 2025**
All agreed and signed off
3. **Matters arising:**

Electrical report/work party

Mark Wood (electrical contractor) visited the site last week and examined the Causeway as that is the next stage. JGH explained about the next step which involved putting in boxes in equal intervals on the bank side one less than there is now and the same for the other side. We are having 4 16-amp commando sockets on each box but if not enough we can install splitters. We are waiting for the estimate; plinths are the best way forward but labour would cost more if we made them up. We will be looking about 12 plinth boxes.

As the new pressure washer will be going down to the main pontoon there is no electricity supply, so we will get Mark Wood to look at that next time they are on site. There was a brief discussion about hook ups and connecting them. JHn found the price of £230 plus VAT. PNr asked that when the pontoon is done, could we also add lights. MF asked whether we got a report stating what's wrong with the electrics and suggested changing Companies. SM and JHn informed him that you cannot change Companies mid-way through. A new company might want to redesign everything and charge a lot more. We are being charged £35 per hour for labour which is quite cheap.

OYC Limited Company

JN reported that Clive Cooksey had made a lot of edits at previous meetings held, so we now need Management Committee to give feedback on these quite quickly so we can move on.

There were a small number of amendments which JN would do and resend them out to the Committee. It was voted on and agreed that rather than wait until the next MCM in April, Committee would email JN back with their decision on whether they agreed or not with the contents/amendments.

Gig Rowing – update from sub committee meeting

PH summarised recent events. Yes, we had been successful in gaining a bid from Sports England but it was conditional and only offered half of what we wanted.

It was suggested that we raise the other half by crowd funding but the sub-committee decided we didn't want to go down that route. Further discussion ensued regarding self-build kit. If we could borrow a mould from another Club, it would bring the cost down with the extra advantage of some members have already shown an interest in helping to build this.

Further ideas were discussed with Committee including having a poly tunnel to house and work on the gig.

JHn and SM proposed and seconded that the sub-committee could have £5,000 to start this off, all agreed with the exception of 2 members.

TPO tree pruning

Ph chased with another email but has heard nothing back. He will now phone them.

Crazy Hen

MW and MF suggested contacting a company which will either sell the boat or scrap it. Obviously this will incur a charge. MW said he would contact them and see how we got on.

Mick Fuller's mooring/request for refund

A request was put in to have a refund on yacht registration and mooring fees as the member has now said the Club could use their mooring for this season.

A brief discussion ensued and as their boat is on the Causeway, they would be using Club's facilities, the Yacht registration refund was not upheld. Regarding the mooring fee refund, a vote was taken with JHn proposing and SM seconded that he would still have to pay for the mooring fee, the majority of Committee agreed. JHd was asked to write to said member to inform him of Committee's decision.

Lockers

Nothing further has been done about them.

Update for club heaters (MF) costings for like for like

MF gave a presentation of the heaters with pricings he thought might be suitable for the Clubhouse.

It was noted that the upstairs gets really cold and damp and that perhaps we need a storage heater up there to take off the damp.

After discussion, it was put to a vote with JHn proposing, SM seconded that we buy the like for like style heaters for downstairs and place the panel heater that came from the ladies toilets on the stairwell. All were in agreement. JGH and RC said they would be able to put these heaters in.

MF was asked to purchase these heaters.

Accessible toilets

The whole toilet block/changing rooms were discussed as they need updating.

The Secretary never received the plans that Ben Powell had drawn up so was asked to contact Ben Powell to get a copy of these.

Purchase bar stools

This was not passed by Committee so now taken off the agenda.

However, SM and JGH feels that the current practice of members just sitting in a circle in front of the bar is very intimidating and off-putting to new members.

JGH feels that perhaps a change to seating arrangements would be more beneficial and

would make the bar area feel more welcoming. SM agreed with JGH's thoughts and offered to take on this challenge to redesign the bar area as she has experience of such projects.

4. Management Action Plan from March 2025 MCM meeting

Contact HHA and ask for formal request for sponsorship for buoy (previous meeting)
Purchase new club heaters like for like
Look at redesigning bar area
Order pressure washer

5. Reports:

5.1 Treasurer

MW has been looking at getting cheaper waste disposal. If we changed to Sackers as opposed to IBC, this would save us £600. It was agreed it was worth looking into. We need to change the signatories for the Ipswich Building Society instant account so will arrange for JN, RC and JHd to meet up and complete this. RJ asked JN if he could order the pressure washer, this was agreed.

5.2 Membership Secretary

No further new members to sign up since the last meeting.
One member overpaid his subs by over £100 but has donated it to the Club.

15 members have resigned or not replied to the renewal invite. This leaves our current membership standing at 205 but including partners and children this brings it up to 368 members.

5.3 Bank Master

Nothing to report.

5.4 Social Secretary

Sewing nights

Thanks to Richard Harris for running these, I asked him to remind participants of need to contribute £10 for materials etc.

Hobby Night

Thanks to Emma Wilson for organising these, last one on 27th Feb was well attended. Next one Thursday 3rd April.

Forthcoming events:

Saturday 15th March – Quiz night hosted by Quiz Mistress Katrina Howard
A ploughman's supper and entry for the quiz at £6 per head. Numbers looking like high 50's so far.

Wednesday 19th March – Meeting Woolverstone Project

Sunday 6th April – Children's Party with thanks to Rachel Belton for organising this.

Wednesday 9th April – Talk by Harwich Haven Authority at 7:30 pm. Evelyn Voaden, Deputy Harbourmaster says”

“It's usually a very friendly chat, with myself, a pilot and (if available) the Harbour Master. We present some safety info, harbour updates and a 'day in the life' of a pilot and then take general Q&A.

Thursday 10th April - Music Night with Diz Deacon then 2nd Thursday in the month going forward.

Saturday 12th April - Fitting Out Supper with Fish & Chips
Bookings taken from mid/late March when prices will be available

Wednesday 16th April- Visit to Harwich VTS (13:00 – 16:00)
Visit from 1 pm- 4pm. Two groups – visit to Harwich Pound and VTS control room
Numbers – 8 so far (14 spaces available)

Friday 25th April -Bingo Night – Samantha & Terry

Saturday 31st May – Private party

Saturday 18th October Live Music with Painting the Silence

Saturday 22nd November – Laying Up Supper with Fish & Chips
Bookings taken from late October when prices will be available

Wednesday 31st December – New Years Eve party

Saturday 24th January 2026 – Private party

Any suggestions for events always welcome.

5.5 House Secretary

JL reported that with immediate effect he would only cover the bar on every 2nd Sunday of each month. SM and MW volunteered to do 1 Sunday each per month.

5.6 Mooring Master

PP received a plaque from the Scouts on the work he did helping them remove their pontoons. He has given this to JHn.

JGH reported that all the moorings were done with a week and the final bill has come to £6,600. There was another bill for £3,000 which was for new buoys for the Trots and other bits. £1,400 was spent on chains but we still have a lot of chain left over. JN needs the list of what was done and costings on individual's moorings so she can allocate an invoice to each person.

It was discussed about buying another launch as the current one actually belongs to PP but is in need of repair which he is completing but it probably won't be ready in time for launching. PP agreed that he cannot do as much as he used to and feels someone else has to learn how to do it. It was mentioned that the Club was not trying to replace PP and would want him to continue with his work as and when he can, however as the launch belongs to PP, it was time for the Club to purchase their own.

It was voted on to look at purchasing another one but we would need (upon PP's advice) a fibreglass, low maintenance but powerful launch. JGH proposed with MF seconded

All agreed.

PNr asked for it to be minuted the work that PP, John Ling and Stuart Durrant have put in with regards to collecting all the scrap. We are just waiting for Whip Street to pick it up and remove from our premises.

5.7 Sailing Secretary

Sailing Committee have launched the 2025 programme which includes a Paddle Safer course along with 5 paddling evenings, 22 dinghy races, 2 adult training courses spread over 9 evenings, 13 Junior training sessions, 2 Fun Days and 24 days of Cruise-in-Companies visiting 9 destinations with passage-planning sessions beforehand.

To keep the programme fresh and interesting we've introduced: For our yacht owners a 'Navigator's Challenge' where owners can choose their own start time from the club, sail downriver to round Medusa or another buoy off Walton and return upriver to the club. If they've managed to work out their timings properly and taken full advantage of the tides then the fastest boat on corrected time is the winner. For our dinghy owners we've resurrected the Pursuit Race format which was very popular years ago. This is where the slowest boat starts first and progressively faster boats are allowed to start after them and whoever is in the lead after 100 minutes is the winner. For our cruisers we're planning to visit the River Alde and Southwold, places the club hasn't visited in many years. For all boat owners we have created a new event involving a short cruise down to Nacton shores or Bridge Wood for dinghies and yachts – we're inviting members to invite their family and friends to join them onboard. Once there we can gather on the beach for a picnic. Games will be organised for the more energetic by, on and in the water.

5.8 Maintenance

Nothing reported.

5.9 Correspondence

Received an application to bring a boat to the Club from one of our members on an occasional basis as they have a mooring at Pin Mill. This was discussed as the length is a slight problem. However, as it is only for occasional use, Management Committee all voted in favour of allowing this provided the member was mindful of the extra length when booking the pontoon/dolphin.

JHd read out a letter from another member regarding his chain/tackle. His letter had been investigated and there were discrepancies in his statement. However, it was decided for the time being to invoice him and then reply back.

6. Membership

New members and applicants

JHn and SM interviewed Robin Barclay and his wife and felt they would be a good asset to the Club. However, he has yet to send in any references. Committee approved this provided we receive the references needed.

Jackie Mills was also accepted as a member of the OYC.

7. AOB

We are looking into a better website system for the Club's future. Woolverstone use the Sailing Club Manager and their project manager would be happy to attend a meeting with the OYC key users next Friday to show us how it works and if it would benefit us. If we used this system, it would have the capacity to send emails, contain membership data, online tickets, website payments, event bookings and mooring allocations etc.

Time finished: 22.15

Date of next MCM: Monday 14th April 2025

Appending – Matters arising still ongoing

- Updating Club's heaters
- Abandoned boats
- Changing combi door into wheelchair friendly access
- Redevelopment of ladies changing facilities
- Repairs to Club Wall (deferred)
- Dredging
- Dolphin (deferred)